

**MARVEL**  
**COMICS**

THE UNCANNY

THE  
MUIR  
ISLAND  
SAGA™



\$1.00 US  
\$1.25 CAN  
**278**  
JULY  
© 02461

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY



**IN  
THE GRIP  
OF THE  
SHADOW  
KING!**

NMS  
391



# STAN LEE PRESENTS THE BATTLE OF

A DIFFERENT  
ORDER OF  
REALITY.

PLACE BEYOND  
SPACE, MEANING  
BEYOND TIME.

POSSIBILITIES  
UNFETTERED BY  
THE ANCHOR  
OF FLESHLY  
PHYSICALITY,  
LIMITED SOLELY  
BY ONE'S  
IMAGINATION.

STARRING THE UNCANNY X-MEN by  
CHRIS CLAREMONT & PAUL SMITH  
WRITER GUEST PENCILER

BEHOLD, MY  
DARLING LIAN,  
HOW EASILY,  
HOW EAGERLY,  
THEY HATE!

THE  
EXCUSE CAN  
BE ANYTHING:  
COLOR, RELIGION,  
POLITICS, SEX,  
WHATEVER COMES  
TO THEIR INVENTIVE  
LITTLE MINDS,  
WHATEVER  
THEY FEAR  
MOST.

THE  
LITTLEST  
NUDGE, IS  
ALL IT EVER  
TAKES.

WHICH, IN MY  
CASE, IS AS  
INFINITE...

... AS MY  
DESIRES ARE  
INSATIABLE.

HERE, IN THIS  
REALM OF  
SHADOWS THAT  
TOUCHED EVERY  
LIVING MIND...

... I AM  
KING!

NO  
PERVERTS  
ALLOWED

AIDS IS  
GOD  
PUNISH

Hilary  
BARTA  
inker

Joe  
ROSAS  
colorist

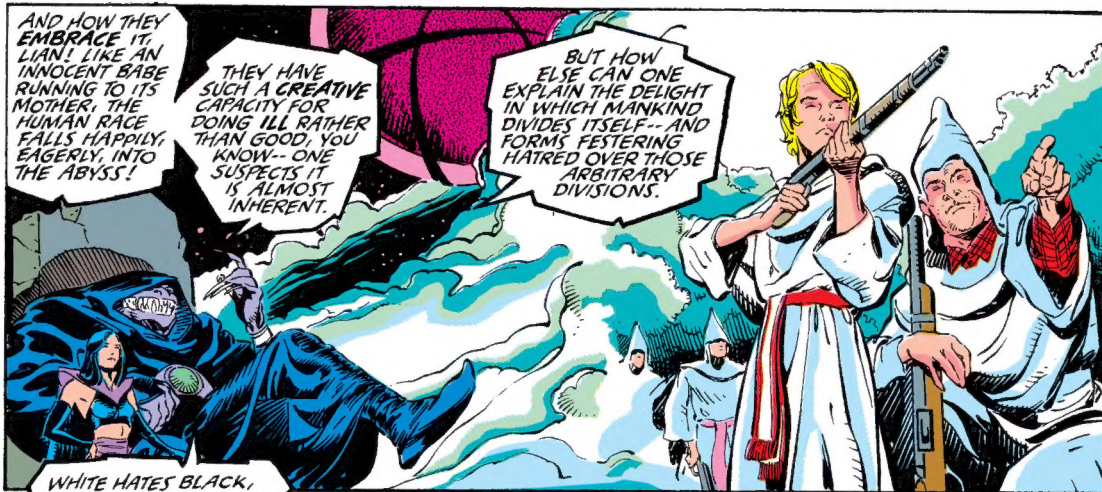
Tom  
ORZECZOWSKI  
letterer

Bob  
HARRAS  
editor

Tom  
DeFALCO  
editor in chief

THE UNCANNY X-MEN® Vol. 1, No. 276, July, 1991. (ISSN # 0274-5372) Published by MARVEL COMICS: Terry Stewart, President; Stan Lee, Publisher; Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1991 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.00 per copy in the U.S. and \$1.25 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. \$12.00; Canada \$17.00; and foreign \$24.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE UNCANNY X-MEN (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE UNCANNY X-MEN, c/o MARVEL COMICS, SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. Printed in the U.S.A.





AND HOW THEY EMBRACE IT, LIAN! LIKE AN INNOCENT BABE RUNNING TO ITS MOTHER, THE HUMAN RACE FALLS HAPPILY, EAGERLY, INTO THE ABYSS!

THEY HAVE SUCH A CREATIVE CAPACITY FOR DOING ILL RATHER THAN GOOD, YOU KNOW-- ONE SUSPECTS IT IS ALMOST INHERENT.

BUT HOW ELSE CAN ONE EXPLAIN THE DELIGHT IN WHICH MANKIND DIVIDES ITSELF-- AND FORMS FESTERING HATRED OVER THOSE ARBITRARY DIVISIONS.

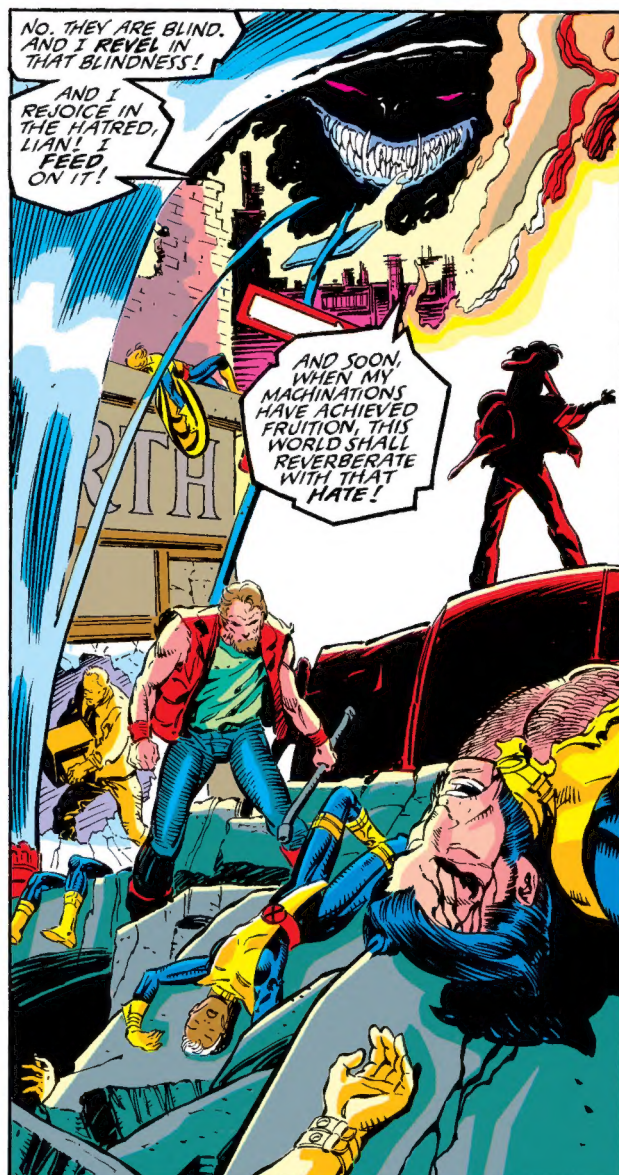
WHITE HATES BLACK, BLACK LOATHES WHITE.



ARAB AND JEW, IN MY HOMELAND, THE MID-EAST... CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT IN NORTHERN IRELAND-- LOCKED IN YEARS OF MURDER AND REVENGE.

IRAQI AND KURD, THE UNTOUCHABLES IN INDIA, HUMANS AND MUTANT-KIND. THE LIST IS PATHETICALLY ENDLESS.

BECAUSE OF FOOLISH, MINUTE DIFFERENCES! POOR HUMANITY, IT NEVER STOPS TO SEE THAT THE TIES THAT BIND THEM TOGETHER FAR OUTSHINE THE BARRIERS OF RACE, CULTURE OR RELIGION.



NO, THEY ARE BLIND. AND I REVEL IN THAT BLINDNESS!

AND I REJOICE IN THE HATRED, LIAN! I FEED ON IT!

AND SOON, WHEN MY MACHINATIONS HAVE ACHIEVED FRUITION, THIS WORLD SHALL REVERBERATE WITH THAT HATE!





AND THOSE RAGING PASSIONS OF HUMANITY, THAT UNBRIDLED SOURCE OF POWER--

--I SHALL MAKE IT MY OWN!

AND THE SHADOW KING SHALL RULE  
**SUPREME!**



YOUR PLAN IS GRAND, LORD, YOUR POWER AWESOME...

"YET HOW OFTEN HAVE YOUR DESIGNS BEEN THWARTED BY CHARLES XAVIER--  
**OH!?!?**

YOU ARE A VALUED CHÄTTEL, DR. SHEN.

DO NOT PROVOKE ME TO YOUR OBLITERATION.

IF SUCH IS MY LORD'S DESIRE.



OF ALL MY FOES, ONLY THE ACCURSED XAVIER AND HIS STUDENTS HAVE EVER GIVEN ME A DECENT CONTEST.

WHICH YOU HAVE YET TO WIN.

TRUE. MY PURPOSE IS NAUGHT SO LONG, AS THE X-MEN REMAIN TO BAR THE WAY.

BUT MERELY SLAYING THEM IS TOO QUICK AND EASY A VENGEANCE.

BETTER BY FAR TO BREAK THEM TO MY YOKE, LIAN, AS I DID YOU.

THAT THEIR MENTOR, XAVIER, MAY WITNESS THE CONTAMINATION OF LIGHT BY SHADOW, THE SUPPLANTATION OF HIS DREAM WITH MINE!



RAF RUTHYMERE, IN THE HEART OF ENGLAND, HOME BASE OF W.H.O.-- HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT'S WEIRD HAPPENINGS ORGANIZATION...

# CLANGALANGALANGA

STAND TO, YOU LOT! AT THE DOUBLE!

WHASSA DRILL, SAR'NT-MAJOR?!

INTRUDER ALERT, AT THE HANGAR WHERE **EXCALIBUR** STORES THEIR FLIPPIN' **BLACKBIRD**!

FAST REACTION FORCE, CLIMB ABOARD THOSE LORRIES...  
...AN' GET ROLLIN'!

CALL **EXCALIBUR**, CORPORAL, AND SCRAMBLE THE ALERT HELICOPTER FLIGHT!

I WANT AN AIRCAP OF GUNSHIPS-- SUPER HEROES-- PREFERABLY BOTH-- OVER THIS BASE QUICK AS CAN BE MANAGED!

NO SUCH LUCK, **BRIGADIER STUART**, PHONE LINK'S GONE.

CAN'T PUNCH THROUGH BY RADIO NEITHER, SOME KIND'A INTERFERENCE.

WE'RE CUT OFF!

ABOUT BLEEDIN' TIME!

MY SQUAD'S SECURED THE FRONT, SAR'NT-MAJOR, TAKE YOURS AROUND BACK!

WHAT ABOUT THE AUTOMATIC SYSTEMS? I THOUGHT PLANE AND HANGAR WERE FULLY ABLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES.

INTRUDER'S WEARING **ARMOR**. MUST CONTAIN A BUILT-IN **SCRAMBLER**, BECAUSE HE ISN'T REGISTERING ON ANY SENSORS.

WOULD'VE MADE A CLEAN PENETRATION IF ONE OF THE MAINTENANCE CREW HADN'T SPOTTED HIM AND RAISED THE ALARM.

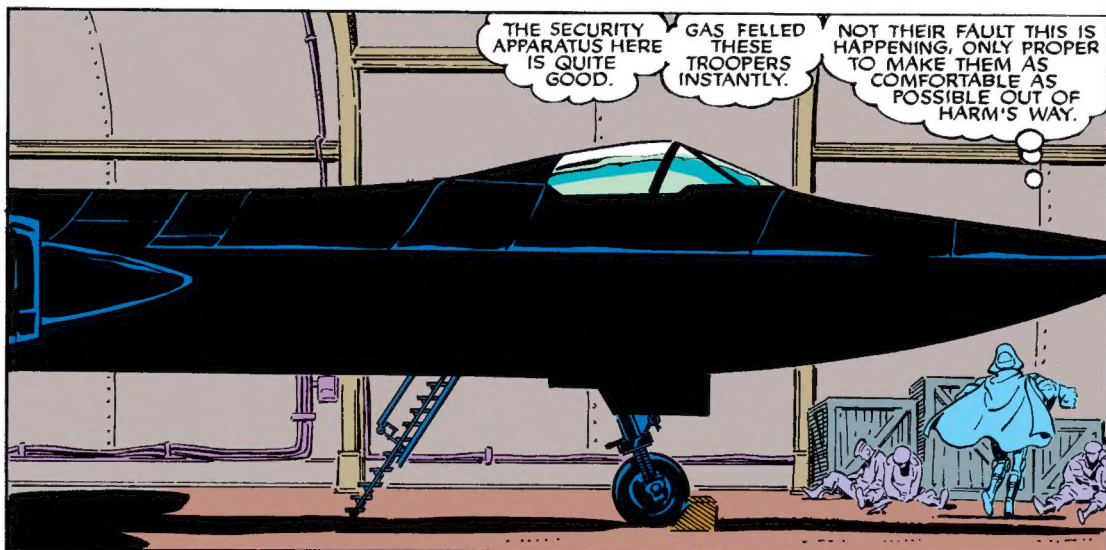
**KAYO GAS** WENT OFF AUTOMATICALLY, CAN'T USE WORSE WITHOUT SIGNING OFF ON OUR OWN PEOPLE STILL INSIDE.

NO SENSE TRYING, ANYWAY, WE CAN STILL HEAR HIM MOVING ABOUT-- NO CHANCE YET FOR A CLEAR SNIPER SHOT, HE'S PLAYING THINGS RIGHT CAGEY-- WHICH MEANS A FULL-BODY SUIT WITH SEALED ATMOSPHERE.

I'VE ALREADY INFORMED THE **BRIGADIER**. WE WANT TO STOP HIM...

...WE'LL HAVE TO GO IN!

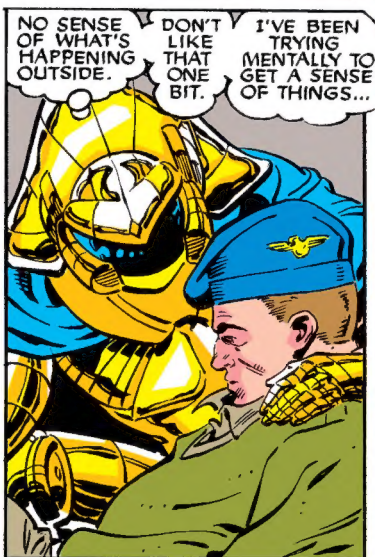




THE SECURITY APPARATUS HERE IS QUITE GOOD.

GAS FELLED THESE TROOPERS INSTANTLY.

NOT THEIR FAULT THIS IS HAPPENING. ONLY PROPER TO MAKE THEM AS COMFORTABLE AS POSSIBLE OUT OF HARM'S WAY.



NO SENSE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING OUTSIDE.

DON'T LIKE THAT ONE BIT.

I'VE BEEN TRYING MENTALLY TO GET A SENSE OF THINGS...

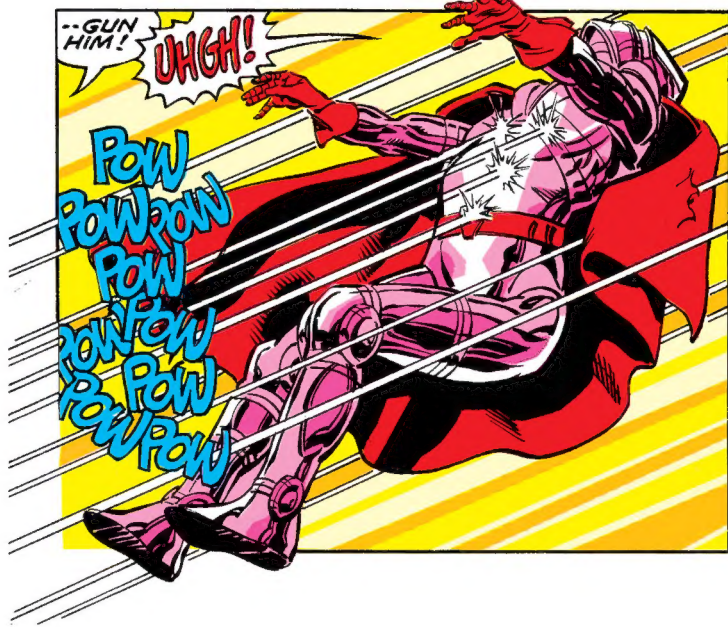


...BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE AN INTENSE STATIC STORM ACROSS THE WHOLE OF THE PSYCHIC SPECTRUM.

THE DISRUPTION INCREASES EXPONENTIALLY, THE FARTHER AWAY FROM MYSELF I TRY TO SCAN--

--WHAT THE 'DEVIL?!

THERE'S THE INTRUDER--



--GUN HIM!

UHGH!

Pow Pow Pow Pow Pow Pow Pow Pow



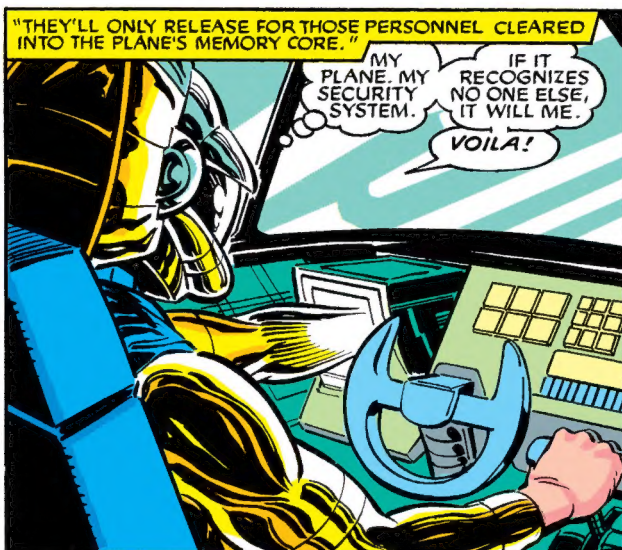
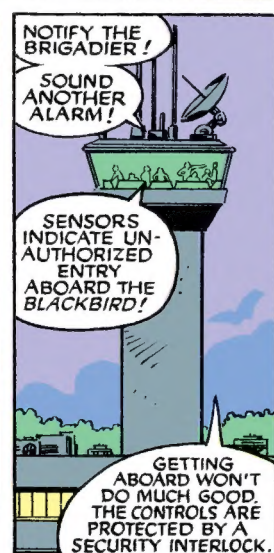
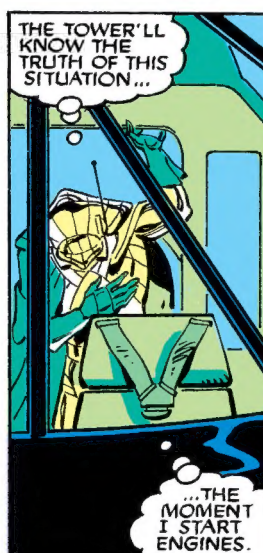
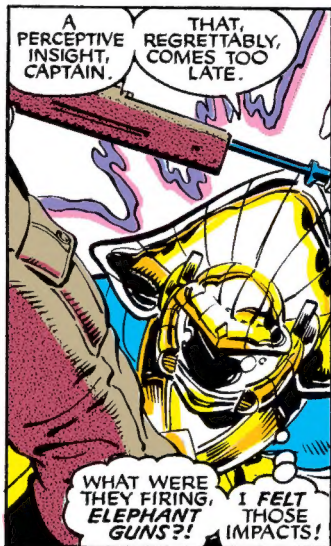
HE'S DOWN!

STEADY ON, LADS. BY THE BOOK, BY THE NUMBERS.

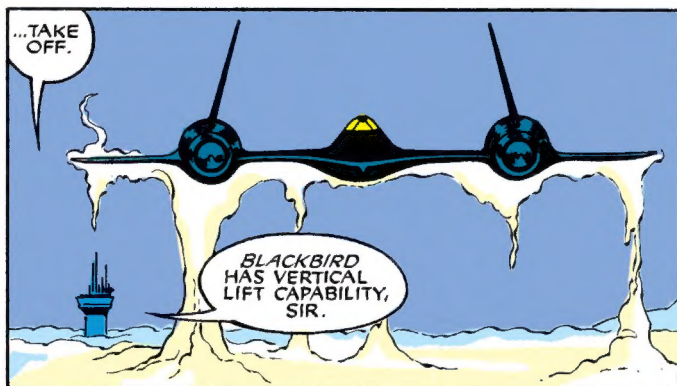
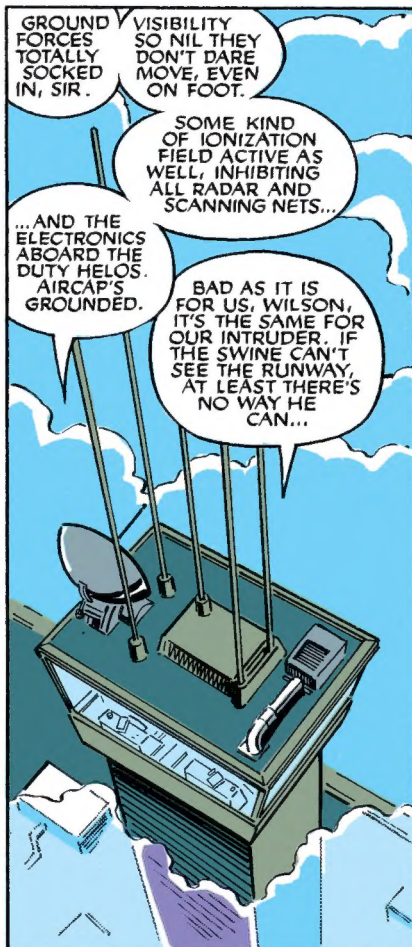
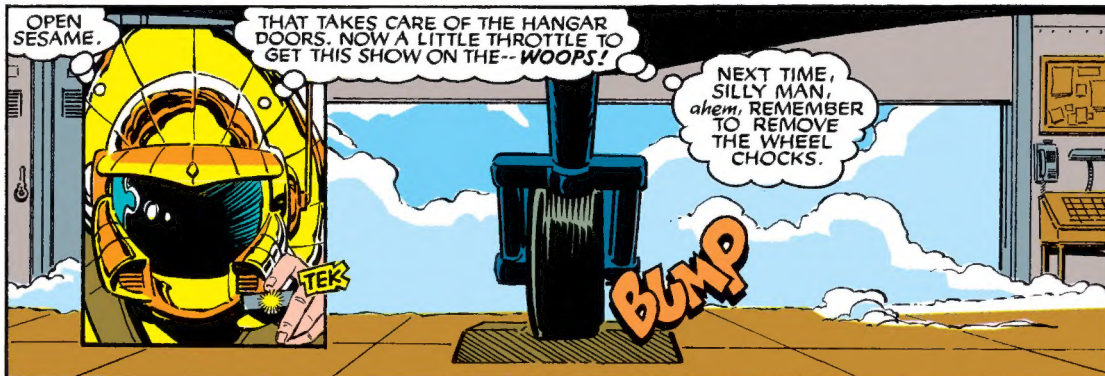
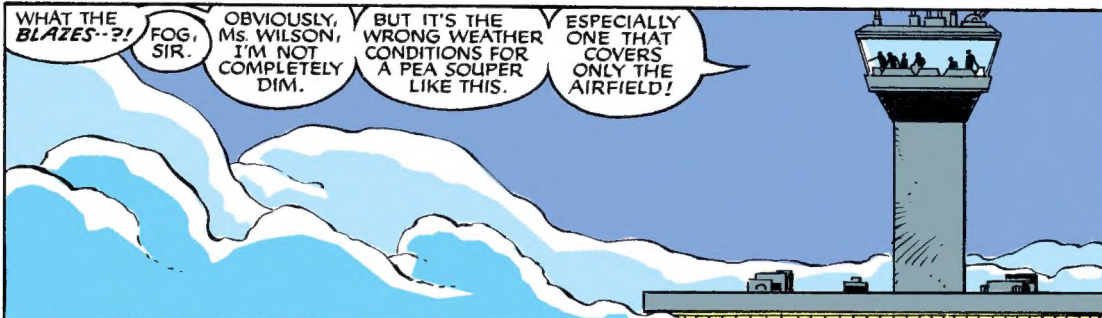
NO BLOOD, NO SIGN OF THAT SUIT BEING BREACHED.

HE COULD BE SHAMMING.











**MUIR ISLE...** ...AN ELEMENTAL SLAB OF ROCK JUTTING DEFIANTLY OUT OF THE NORTH SEA WITHIN EYESHOT OF CAPE WRATH, THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF SCOTLAND.

**HOME TO GENETICIST MOIRA MacTAggert...**

... AND HAVEN TO MUTANT-KIND, FOR LONGER THAN EITHER CARES TO THINK ABOUT.

WHERE ROGUE, CURRENTLY THE ONLY REMAINING X-MAN LEFT ON EARTH, HAS JOURNEYED AFTER LEAVING THE SAVAGE LAND...

... AND HAS FOUND THE PLACE CHANGED.

YAWANNA EARN YER PLACE AT THE CHIEF'S SIDE, CUTES...

...YA GATTA GO TRU ME!

**BRUISER'S NAMED GUIDO.**

DAY JOB'S LOOKING AFTER LILA CHENEY.

**WILLIAM**

ONLY, A WHILE BACK, SHE UP AND TELEPORTED THE X-MEN ACROSS THE UNIVERSE TO WHO KNOWS WHERE. \*

I APPRECIATE THE CALL, BRIGADIER STUART. YOU'RE QUITE CORRECT, IT SOUNDS MOST INTRIGUING.

I'LL LET YOU KNOW SHOULD ANYTHING DEVELOP AT THIS END.

\*AT THE END OF X-MEN #273-- Bob.

NEITHER LILA NOR THE X-MEN HAS BEEN SEEN OR HEARD FROM SINCE.

**NO BIG DEAL.**

GUIDO'S USED TO LILA'S PERIPATETIC COMINGS AND GOINGS.

COMES WITH THE TERRITORY WHEN YOUR BOSS IS A WORLD-CLASS ROCKSTAR, INTERSTELLAR TELEPORTER AND UNIVERSE-LEVEL THIEF!

ONLY THIS TIME, FOR NO REASON HE COULD THINK OF...

... HE FOUND HIMSELF DRAWN INTO MOIRA'S ORBIT.

AND FOUND HE LIKED THE LIFE HERE.

**A WHOLE LOT.**

**SKRAK**

ALMOST AS MUCH, IN FACT, AS HIS AUDIENCE LOVED HIM!

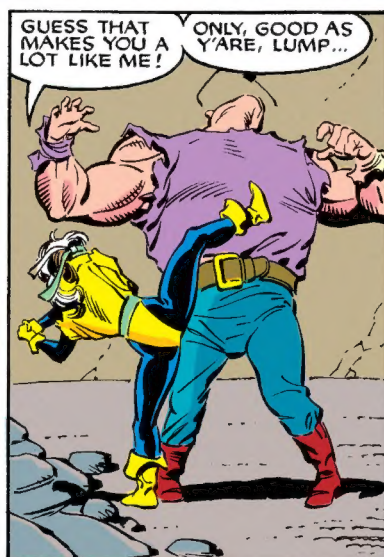
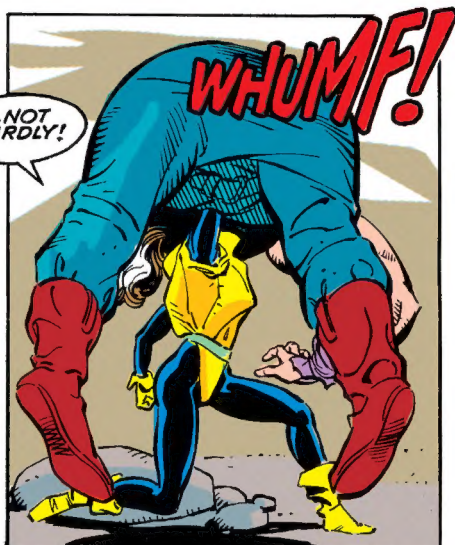
OUCH! POOR WEE DARLIN', SHE HAD SUCH A BEAUTIFUL FACE!

HIT HER AGAIN, GUIDO!

WE WANT TO SEE PAIN!

WE WANT TO SEE BLOOD!









WAY TO GO, LITTLE LADY.

EVEN IF IT DID COST ME A PRETTY PENNY.

AH WIN!



TOL'JA NOT T' BET AGAINST ME, MADROX.

USUALLY, AH PULL MY PUNCHES, FOR FEAR O' THE DAMAGE AH'LL DO...

... BUT AH HIT GUIDO HARD AS AH COULD.

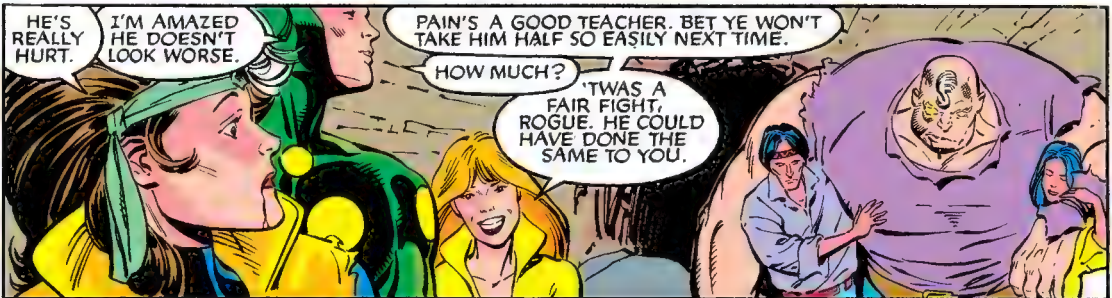
FROM THE LOOKS OF HIM...



...IT'S A BEATING HE'LL NOT SOON FORGET.

FIGHT'S FINISHED, GUIDO. HEALER'S WAITING FOR YOU OVER IN THE INFIRMARY.

EASY, BIG FELLA, DON'T TRY TO TALK.



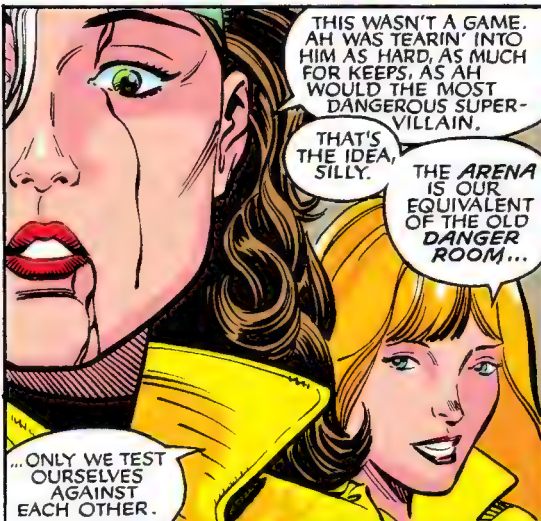
HE'S REALLY HURT.

I'M AMAZED HE DOESN'T LOOK WORSE.

PAIN'S A GOOD TEACHER. BET YE WON'T TAKE HIM HALF SO EASILY NEXT TIME.

HOW MUCH?

'T WAS A FAIR FIGHT, ROGUE. HE COULD HAVE DONE THE SAME TO YOU.



THIS WASN'T A GAME. AH WAS TEARIN' INTO HIM AS HARD, AS MUCH FOR KEEPS, AS AH WOULD THE MOST DANGEROUS SUPER-VILLAIN.

THAT'S THE IDEA, SILLY.

THE ARENA IS OUR EQUIVALENT OF THE OLD DANGER ROOM...

... ONLY WE TEST OURSELVES AGAINST EACH OTHER.



A REAL FIGHT. REAL FOES. REAL BLOOD. REAL GLORY.

WHAT MORE COULD YOU ASK FOR?

AND MOIRA APPROVES OF THIS ?!

ROGUE  
ROGUE  
ROGUE  
ROGUE

IT WAS MOIRA'S IDEA!



MEANWHILE,  
NOT SO FAR  
AWAY...

NO SIGN OF ANY PURSUIT, THE  
CLOAKING SYSTEMS ARE EVIDENTLY  
DOING THEIR JOB.

STILL THAT  
ACCURSED STATIC  
INHIBITS MY  
PSI-POWERS.

THE *SHADOW  
KING'S* DOING?

IF SO, THAT REPRESENTS A QUANTUM  
INCREASE IN HIS  
CAPABILITIES.

SUCH A FEAT  
IS CERTAINLY  
BEYOND MINE.

SO MUCH  
FOR CHARLES  
XAVIER'S  
VAUNTED  
REPUTATION AS  
THIS PLANET'S  
FOREMOST  
TELEPATH.

Oh.  
Oh.  
MY.

THIS  
CERTAINLY  
SMARTS.

SERVES ME  
RIGHT, FOR  
DEPENDING FAR  
TOO MUCH ON  
MY MENTAL  
POWERS TO  
SAFEGUARD ME.

IF INDEED WE  
ARE FACING THE  
SHADOW KING,  
I WON'T BE SO  
FORTUNATE AGAIN.

AGAINST HIM, I MUST BE AT  
MY PEAK, PHYSICALLY AND  
PSYCHICALLY.

AND EVEN THEN, NOTHING  
IS GUARANTEED.

I SEE MY SMALL  
DIVERSION SERVED  
ITS PURPOSE,  
PROFESSOR.

PERFECTLY,  
STORM. I  
COULDN'T  
HAVE  
ASKED FOR  
MORE.

FOLLOW ME, THEN.

I SHALL  
LEAD YOU TO  
THE OTHERS.



**PRESENTLY, ON THE SCOTS MAINLAND, JUST OVER THE HORIZON FROM MUIR ISLE...**

NOTHIN' BROKEN, CHARLEY, JUST SOME BAD BRUISES.

YOU SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MANAGE?

I MAY NOT HAVE YOUR GIFT FOR MAYHEM, **WOLVERINE**...

...BUT NEITHER AM I A BABE IN THE PROVERBIAL WOODS.

PROFESSOR, BARELY A DAY AGO, YOU WERE A PRISONER OF A CADRE OF **WARSKRULLS**, BOUND TO AN UNHOLY DEVICE THAT ALLOWED THEM TO MANIPULATE YOUR MENTAL POWERS, IN AN ATTEMPT TO SEIZE CONTROL OF THE SHI'AR EMPIRE.

I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

AND WE X-MEN WERE IN A DESPERATE BATTLE TO SAVE YOU.

BOLD WORDS TO THE CONTRARY, NEITHER YOU NOR WE EMERGED FROM THAT CONFRONTATION UNSCATHED.

*\*AS CHRONICLED IN X-MEN #5 273-277-- Bob.*

TO PRETEND OTHERWISE IS TO COURT DISASTER.

I HAVE BEEN TO THE LIGHTHOUSE THAT SERVES AS **EXCALIBUR'S** HOME AND HEAD-QUARTERS.

THE TEAM IS NOT IN RESIDENCE.

WHICH MAKES IT ALL THE MORE IMPERATIVE I CONTACT THE GROUP COMPRISING MY ORIGINAL STUDENTS, WHAT DID YOU CALL IT, **X-FACTOR**.

NEWS REPORTS SAY THEY'RE DEAD, BLOWN UP WITH THEIR SHIP. \*

AS I RECALL, FROM MY SCAN OF STORM'S MEMORIES, THE SAME CLAIM WAS MADE ABOUT YOU, AFTER SOME IMBROGLIO IN DALLAS. \*\*

AT THE VERY LEAST, ACCESSING MY **CEREBRO** SENSOR ARRAY BACK AT THE MANSION IN NEW YORK...

*\*X-FACTOR #67; \*\*X-MEN #227.*

...WILL ENABLE ME TO SCAN NOT MERELY FOR THEM, BUT FOR OUR FOE.

IN THE MEAN-WHILE, YOU X-MEN WILL UNDERTAKE A STRATEGIC RE-CONNAISSANCE OF MUIR ISLE, TO DETERMINE THE SITUATION THERE.

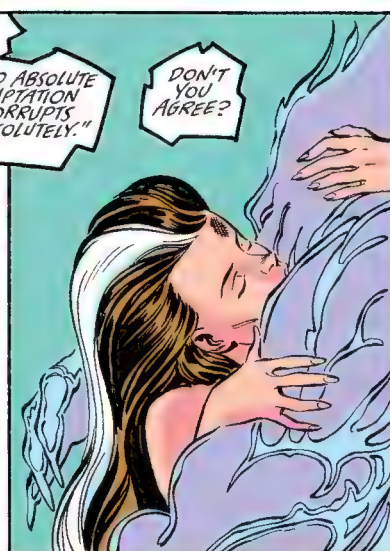
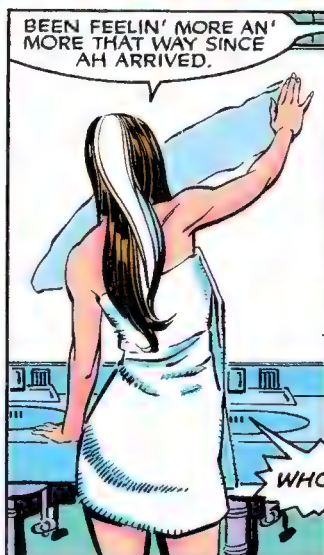
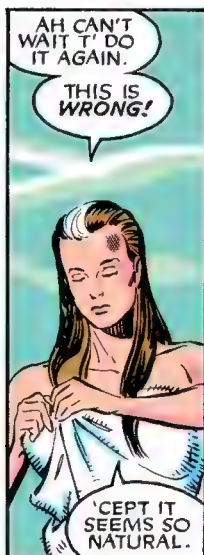
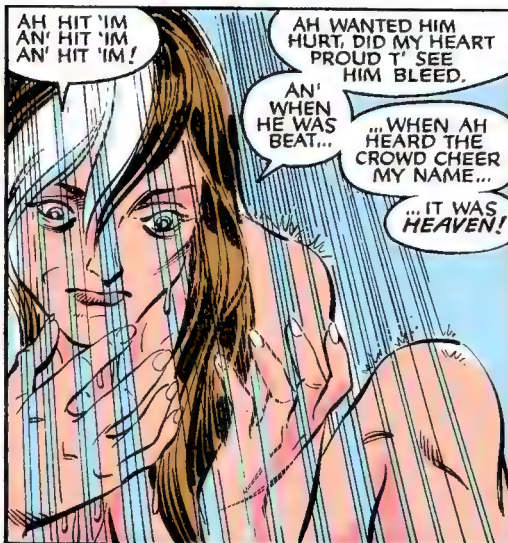
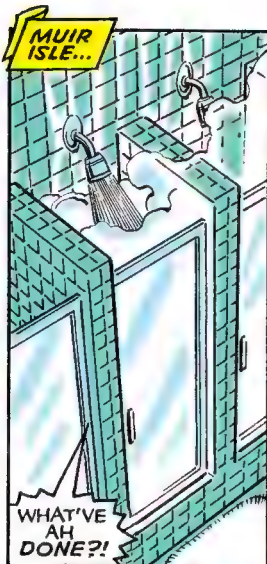
HOPEFULLY, ALL IS WELL, AND BANSHEE'S FEARS FOR MOIRA GROUNDLESS.

AYE, CHARLES, THAT'S ME PRAYER.

IF NOT...

...THEN WE MUST SET THINGS A'RIGHT.









ABOARD THE BLACKBIRD...

FORGE?

STATUS, PLEASE.



SOARING LIKE A BIRD, BOSS; THANKS TO THE GLIDER WINGS I BUILT.

AND THE WINDS YOU'RE PROVIDING THEM TO WORK WITH.

WOULDN'T MIND TRYING THIS WITH YOU SOMETIME.

MY PLEASURE. HOWEVER...



I KNOW, I KNOW, BUSINESS BEFORE...

I'M INTER-FACING WITH THE DEFENSIVE SYSTEMRY I ESTABLISHED TO DEFEND THE ISLAND.

WICKED PIECE OF WORK, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.



GOOD THING I SNUCK A "BACK DOOR" INTO THE DESIGN.

WHICH IS NOW-- AM I GREAT OR WHAT-- WIDE OPEN.

GREEN LIGHT, TEAM.

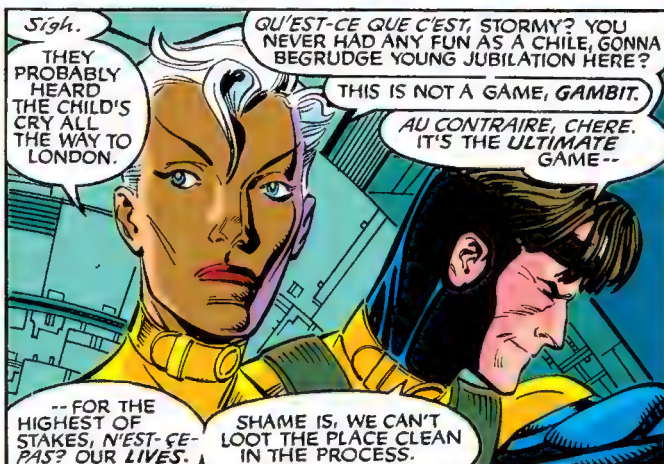
HANG ON TIGHT, JUBILEE, TIME TO FLY!

Uh-uh, NO WAY NOHOW I WON'T I WON'T I WON'T THIS IS TOTALLY NUTS YOU'RE ALL CRAZY



THIS IS FAN-TAS-TIC!

WOWIE-ZOWIE CAN WE DO IT AGAIN SOMETIME REAL SOON PLEASE?



Sigh.

THEY PROBABLY HEARD THE CHILD'S CRY ALL THE WAY TO LONDON.

QU'EST-CE QUE C'EST, STORMY? YOU NEVER HAD ANY FUN AS A CHILE, GONNA BEGRUDGE YOUNG JUBILATION HERE?

THIS IS NOT A GAME, GAMBIT.

AU CONTRAIRE, CHERE. IT'S THE ULTIMATE GAME--

-- FOR THE HIGHEST OF STAKES, N'EST-CE-PAS? OUR LIVES.

SHAME IS, WE CAN'T LOOT THE PLACE CLEAN IN THE PROCESS.



AN ESSENTIAL DRAW-BACK, GAMBIT, OF BEING ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.

PROFESSOR--!

FOR THE LAST TIME, STORM...

...WHILE I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN...



...YOU NEED THE WHOLE OF YOUR TEAM WITH YOU, ESPECIALLY IF YOU RUN INTO TROUBLE.

I WILL BE FINE ON MY OWN.



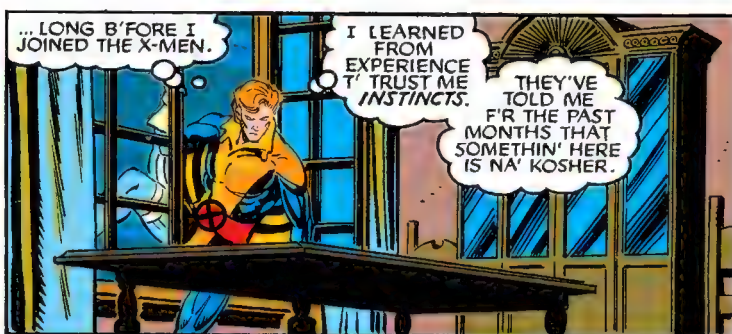


QUIET.  
NOT A  
SIGN O'  
LIFE.

HARDLY  
THE HOME-  
COMING I  
DREAMED  
OF...

...SKULKING  
ABOUT  
MOIRA'S  
HOUSE AS IF  
IT WAS SOME  
VILLAIN'S  
HIDEOUT.

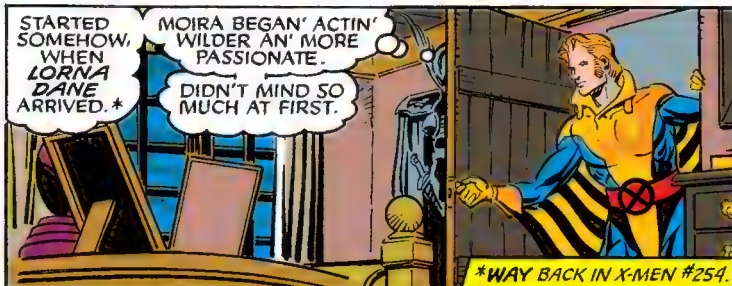
BUT I  
WAS A  
POLICE-  
MAN...



... LONG B'FORE I  
JOINED THE X-MEN.

I LEARNED  
FROM  
EXPERIENCE  
T' TRUST ME  
INSTINCTS.

THEY'VE  
TOLD ME  
F'R THE PAST  
MONTHS THAT  
SOMETHIN' HERE  
IS NA' KOSHER.

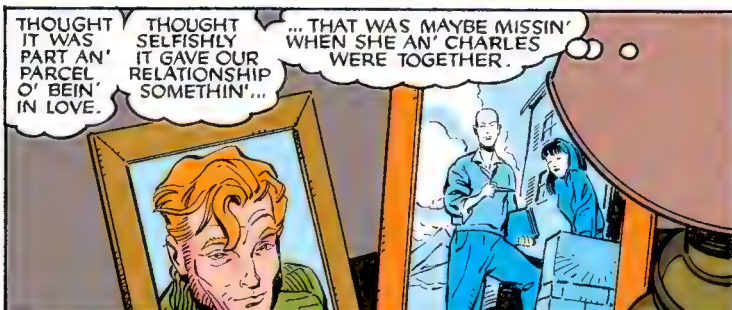


STARTED  
SOMEHOW,  
WHEN  
LORNA  
DAVE  
ARRIVED. \*

MOIRA BEGAN' ACTIN'  
WILDER AN' MORE  
PASSIONATE.

DIDN'T MIND SO  
MUCH AT FIRST.

\*WAY BACK IN X-MEN #254.



THOUGHT  
IT WAS  
PART AN'  
PARCEL  
O' BEIN'  
IN LOVE.

THOUGHT  
SELFISHLY  
IT GAVE OUR  
RELATIONSHIP  
SOMETHIN'...

... THAT WAS MAYBE MISSIN'  
WHEN SHE AN' CHARLES  
WERE TOGETHER.

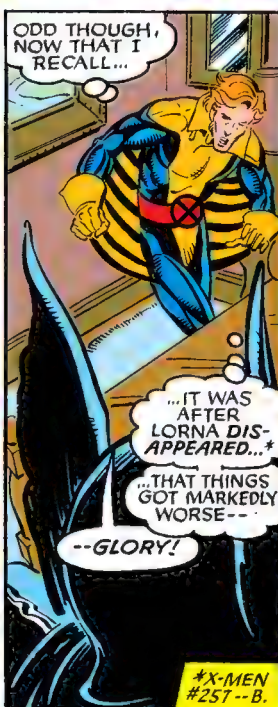


THEN, WHEN  
THINGS TURNED  
NASTY...

...I WONDERED  
IF IT WAS ME,  
BEIN' A PRUDE.

'TIL I  
REALIZED IT  
WASN'T ONLY  
MOIRA ACTIN'  
STRANGE...

...BUT NEAR EVERY-  
ONE ON THE ISLE.



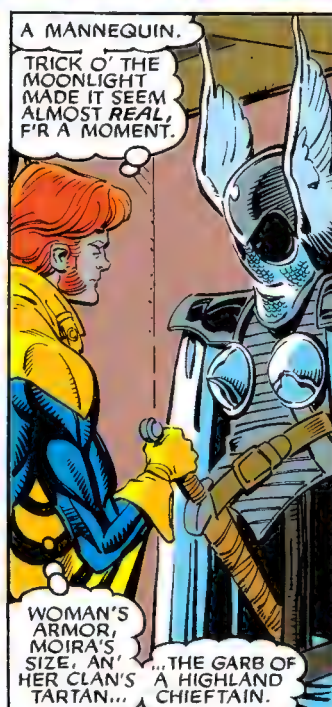
ODD THOUGH,  
NOW THAT I  
RECALL...

...IT WAS  
AFTER  
LORNA DIS-  
APPEARED... \*

...THAT THINGS  
GOT MARKEDLY  
WORSE--

--GLORY!

\*X-MEN  
#257--B.



A MANNEQUIN.

TRICK O' THE  
MOONLIGHT  
MADE IT SEEM  
ALMOST REAL,  
F'R A MOMENT.

WOMAN'S  
ARMOR,  
MOIRA'S  
SIZE, AN'  
HER CLAN'S  
TARTAN...

...THE GARB OF  
A HIGHLAND  
CHIEFTAIN.



A CLAYMORE,  
THE SCOTS  
WARSWORD.

FORGED F'R  
USE, NOT  
SHOW.

THESE  
NICKS  
ARE  
FRESH.

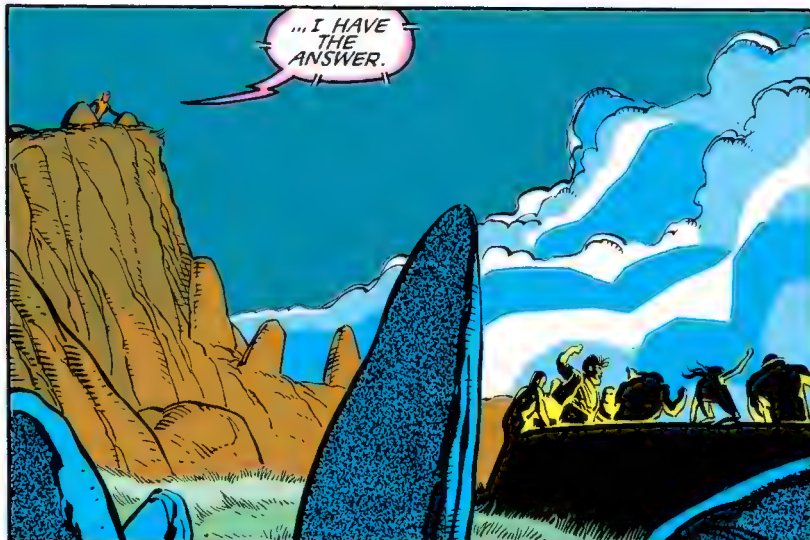
MOIRA ME LOVE,  
ACCUSHLA. WHAT  
THE DEVIL GOES  
ON HERE?!





X-MEN... THIS IS PSYLOCKE.

IN CASE ANYONE HAS WONDERED WHERE THE ISLAND'S POPULATION HAS GOTTEN TO...

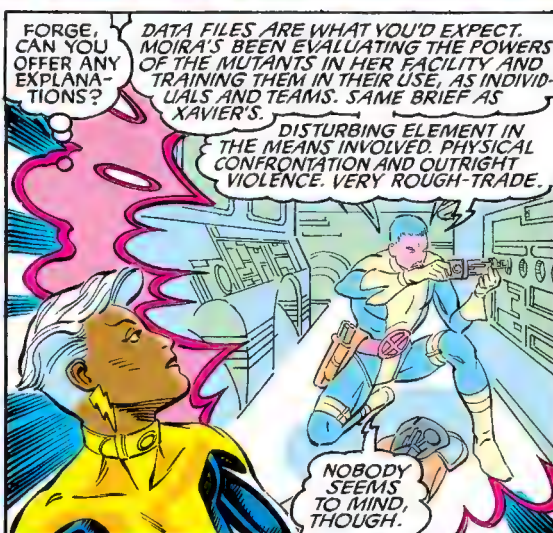


... I HAVE THE ANSWER.



BRIGHT LADY... -- THEY FIGHT LIKE GLADIATORS...

...IN SOME BARBARIC ARENA.



FORGE, CAN YOU OFFER ANY EXPLANATIONS?

DATA FILES ARE WHAT YOU'D EXPECT. MOIRA'S BEEN EVALUATING THE POWERS OF THE MUTANTS IN HER FACILITY AND TRAINING THEM IN THEIR USE, AS INDIVIDUALS AND TEAMS. SAME BRIEF AS XAVIER'S.

DISTURBING ELEMENT IN THE MEANS INVOLVED. PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION AND OUTRIGHT VIOLENCE. VERY ROUGH-TRADE.

NOBODY SEEMS TO MIND, THOUGH.



ALSO -- THERE'S A PHENOMINAL AMOUNT OF POWER BEING DIVERTED TO A LOWER LEVEL HOLDING PEN.

WHOEVER'S BEING HELD THERE MUST BE A MAJORLY SERIOUS CHARACTER.

WORTH CHECKING OUT.



HIDEY-HI!

BEEN WONDERING WHEN YOU'D SHOW.

LIFE HERE'S SORT'A STALE, IN A RUT, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

POP WHO?!

NEED SOME NEW BLOOD.

TO SHED.

YOURS.



I'M LEGION.

NO HE'S NOT IT'S A LIE THIS ISN'T MY FAULT!

PLEASE YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING HE'S MAKING ME HURT PEOPLE!

STOP WHINING, YOU WIMP!

TECHNICALLY, THAT'S THE TRUTH.

LEGION ISN'T RESPONSIBLE.

HE'S MERELY THE VESSEL FOR A GREATER POWER.

...MY TELEPATHY FREEZES YOU IN PLACE...

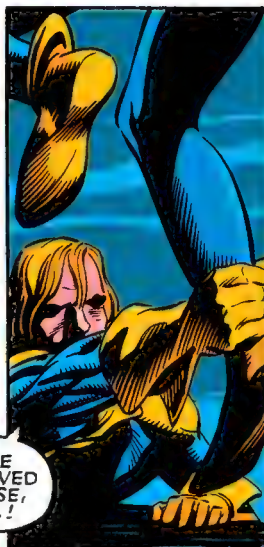
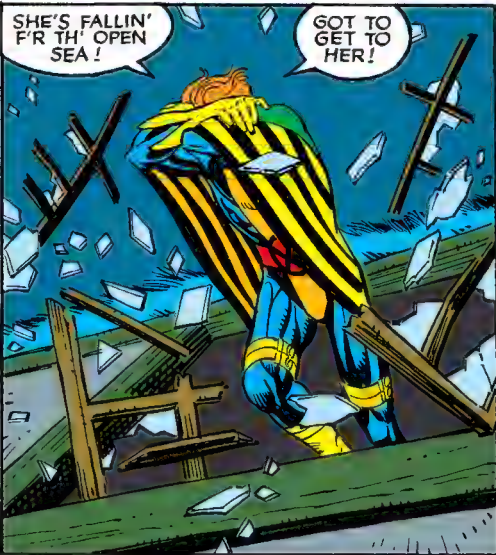
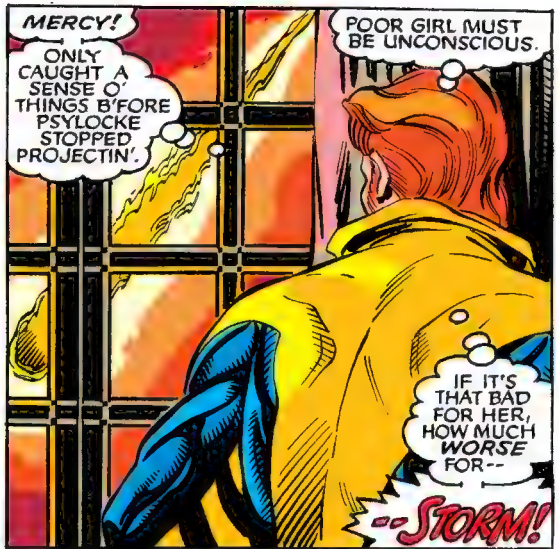
...AS MY TELE-KINETIC ABILITY HOLDS ME IN MID-AIR...

NOT THAT THAT REVELATION WILL DO YOU ANY GOOD, WIND-RIDER...

...AND MY PYROTIC FIRE SENDS YOU SCREAMING TO YOUR MAKER!

HAPPY LANDINGS!











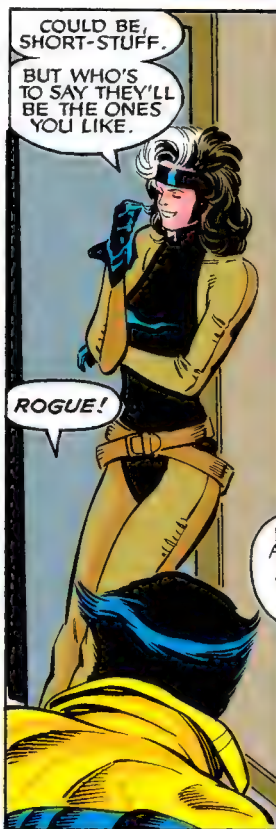


Uh, shouldn't we be like **WORRIED** or anything, 'bout the way Psylocke went off the air?

NOthin' we can do for her right now.

Answers're what we need.

I figure we'll get some at the end o' this trail I'm followin'.



Could be, short-stuff.

But who's to say they'll be the ones you like.

ROGUE!



Pleased as punch I see you, too, Logan.

Guess this means we ain't friends no more, huh?



Oh, wonderful!

One look at the lady, Wolve goes totally berserk!

It's a knock-down, drag-out, fist-o-rama!

But Rogue and him are team-mates, best buddies!

This is nuts! I ain't about to let Wolve get thumped, or her get ginsu sliced-an'-diced by his claws. Like it or not, I'm usin' my fire-works to end this stupid fight!



That won't be necessary, child.

I'm Amanda, Stewardess by trade, demon sorceress by nature.

I do hope you put up a decent struggle.

It's been so long since my pets faced a challenge worthy of them.

YEEP!



# STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes.

It had to happen! It's one of the most exciting new projects in years! Here's how it started...

Whenever I'm at a ComicCon or any place where there's a gaggle of frantic fans, I'm always asked questions like "What's Todd McFarlane really like?" or "How does Tom DeFalco manage to supervise so many titles?" or "Is it true that Chris Claremont's really a mutant?" etc. It seems that readers can't get enough information about their favorite comicbook people.

Well, since I always aim to please, I

discussed this subject with a few other comicbook freaks and we came up with a dynamite idea...

Anyone who owns a video cassette player will now have a fantastic opportunity to see and learn about the world's most popular comicbook creators! I'm planning to interview most of the top talents in the biz in a series of collector's-item videos, which you'll be able to get at your favorite comicbook shop or video store!

In fact, by the time you read this, the first two videos may already be on sale! We're calling the series "THE COMICBOOK GREATS." Each video will be an in-depth, full-length interview with one of comicdom's top talents. You'll have a rare opportunity to see exactly how your favorite

comicbook greats work while I hit 'em with the questions you yourself might want to ask. And, for once, I'll shut up long enough to let the other guys do most of the talking!

Of course, there's one serious problem! After seeing themselves on these fantastic cassettes, our video stars might give up comics and go into show biz! But we've got an ace in the hole! If Romita heads for Hollywood, we'll teach Schwarzenegger how to draw!

So, till The Punisher buys a Barbie doll — see ya on video!  
Excelsior!

*Stan Lee*

It's May, so those young scallawags up at Marvel Comics thought it would be a hoot to have somebody named May write this month's Bullwhip Barnacles Page. So, purely at random, they selected me, May Parker, beloved aunt of Peter Parker, that well-known photo-journalist. Since making wheelchairs isn't taking up all my time anymore, I accepted the job (although, to be honest, I haven't read a comic book since the Yellow Kid was wearing yellow diapers.)

They told me I could write about whatever struck my fancy, but since it's been some time since I've had my fancy struck, I thought I'd tell you about my trip into the city two months back. I was strolling through Manhattan, looking for that special wool I need to knit some new sweaters, and I saw that nice young Mark Greenwald, who is Executive Editor of Marvel Comics, and, who, by the way, is one of the most eligible bachelors in the city. Mark was holding a video camera, and was filming something he called the *Marvel Talk Video*.

The video will be shown at all the major comics conventions this year, and will feature all your favorite Marvel editors talking about their upcoming projects. But here's the peachy part — this video will feature the Marvel crew in their off hours so you'll get a glimpse of their personal lives. For instance, Ned Yonkov will be seen performing with his group, the Bluesicians, at a jazz club. Carl Potts will be fishing. Jim Salicrú will be seen at Tronix film studios, home of Marvel's newest comic book, the *TOXIC AVENGER*.

As I continued to walk around the city, I saw a bunch of Marvel employees boarding a bus for a big ski trip. Now, I myself haven't skied in years, though in my day, I was quite a "ham-burger," as they say. I also was quite a dancer — I could do a Lindy like nobody's business, and nobody could touch my fox trot.



Why, with my husband, Ben, God rest his soul, I used to do a Charleston that would leave em gasping for air!

Oh, ahem, I seem to have strayed from the topic. Now, where was I? Oh, yes, the Marvel ski trip. It took place in March. About twenty Marvel persons headed up to the Berkshires in West Massachusetts, where they had a sociable, clean, outdoorsy experience together. It seems when four Marvel staff people — Sarra Mossoff, Rob Tokan, Kevin Kobasic, and Kevin Tang — went to the Berkshires in January, they had such a good time, these rascals decided to go back, and bring their friends with them!

Of course, skiing season is far behind us, and we're now entering into warmer weather, so you know what that means. Yes, it's time to start up a new season of bridge tournaments. I understand we're also entering softball season, so you can be sure the Marvel softball team is breaking out the pigskin and preparing for another big year. Young Evan Stoknick, who last year led Marvel to one of their first winning seasons in years, does not know if he's going to manage the team again. I wouldn't blame him if he didn't. The responsibilities of the position look like they've contributed to his premature hair loss, the poor boy...!

What's that? Oh, All right, I've been asked to mention some comic book conventions. Now, myself, I've never been to such a thing, but I do attend a couple of baby-offs every year and I imagine they're much the same, except you can't eat comics. I have a prize-winning cherry cobbler,

which Anna Watson says is super-scrumptious. Come over sometime, and I'll give you a taste. Anyhow, here's what I'm supposed to tell you about the conventions...

The Chicago Comiccon is June 28-30. For information, write 1219 West Devon, Chicago, IL 60660 or call (312) 743-4493. Guests will include Chris Claremont, Mark Bagley, Tom DeFalco, and Mark Greenwald.

The San Diego Comiccon is July 4-7. You may write P.O. Box 128458, San Diego, CA 92112-8458, or call (619) 491-2089, if you wish. Guests include Jim Lee, Chris Claremont, Jack Kirby, Fabian Nicieza, and Paul Ryan.

The Atlanta Comics Expo is July 12-14. Write Box 47696, Atlanta, GA 30362, or call (404) 925-2813 for details, if you're of a mind. Guests include Frank Miller, Al Williamson, Mark Bagley, Wayne Vansant, Ted McKeever, Bob Harris, and Jerry Kavanagh.

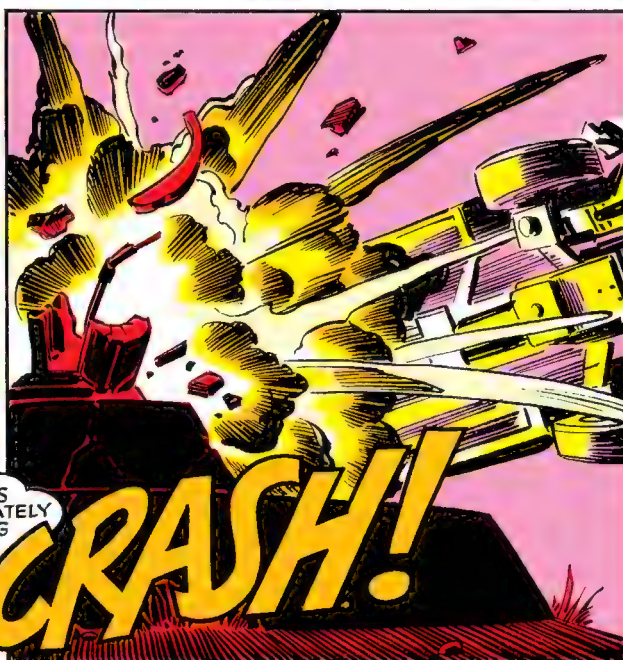
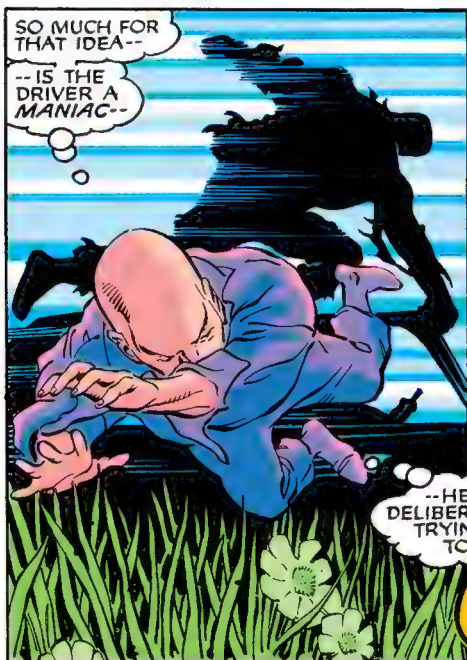
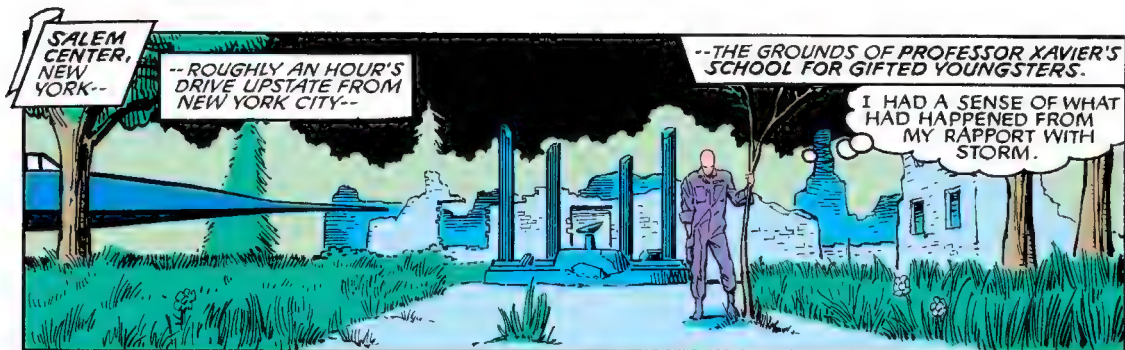
The Dallas Fantasy Fair is July 19-21. Write P.O. Box 820488, Dallas, TX 75382, or call (214) 350-4305 if you want to know more. Guests include Carl Potts, Mike Ricketts, Ron Frenz, and Rob Tokan.

The Atlanta Fantasy Fair is July 26-28. Write 4175 Eliza Ct., Lithonia, GA 30058, or call (404) 983-1230. Guests include Bob Budiansky, Alas Savich, Mark Bagley, René Witterstaetter, and Mario Javins.

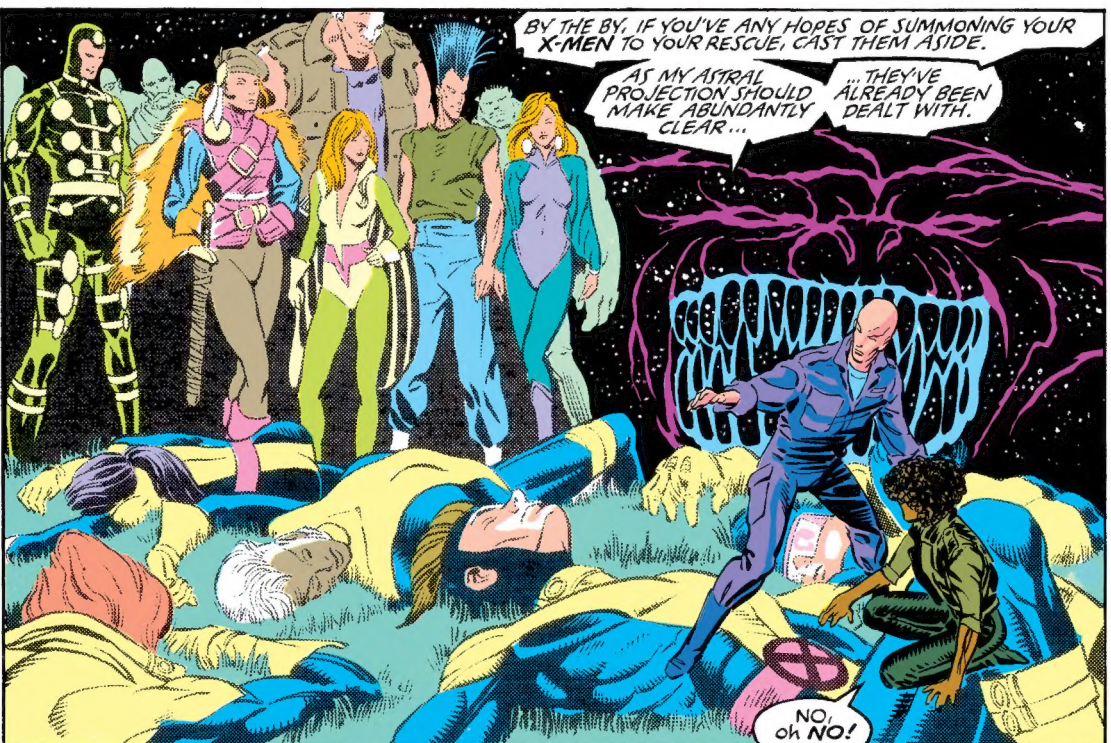
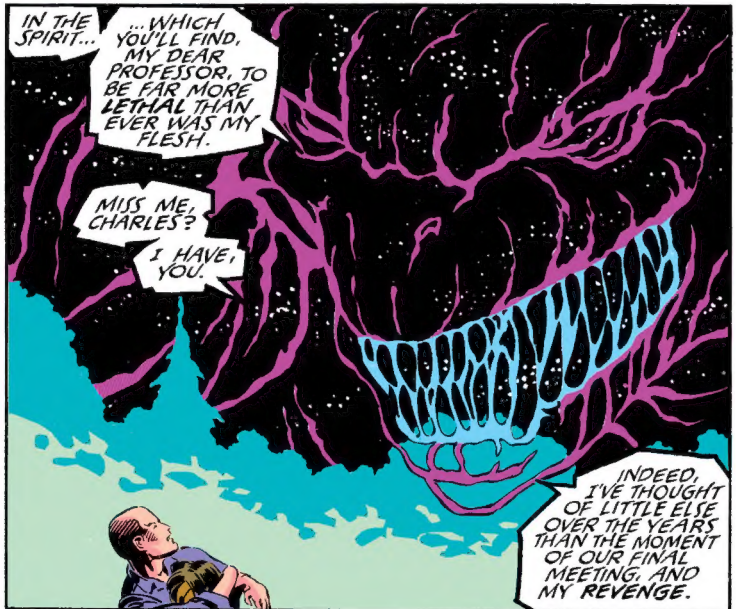
My goodness! That took up space. I guess I can stop soon. I hope you enjoyed my Bullfrog Bugaloes Page. I'm glad I had the chance to write for a Marvel Comic, although I admit I know next to nothing about comic books. Marvel publishes those books about that awful Spider Man, that much I know.

Till next May, this is May Parker leaving you with a funny saying I heard a bobby-saver tell his chum, "If I don't see you in the mallroom, I'll see you in the spring!"











AS FOR THE  
POSSIBILITY  
OF YOU  
COMING TO  
YOUR  
STUDENTS'  
RESCUE...

...I WOULD  
HAVE TO SAY  
THE ODDS  
ARE ABOUT  
AS SLIM...

...AS THOSE  
FOR YOUR  
SURVIVAL.

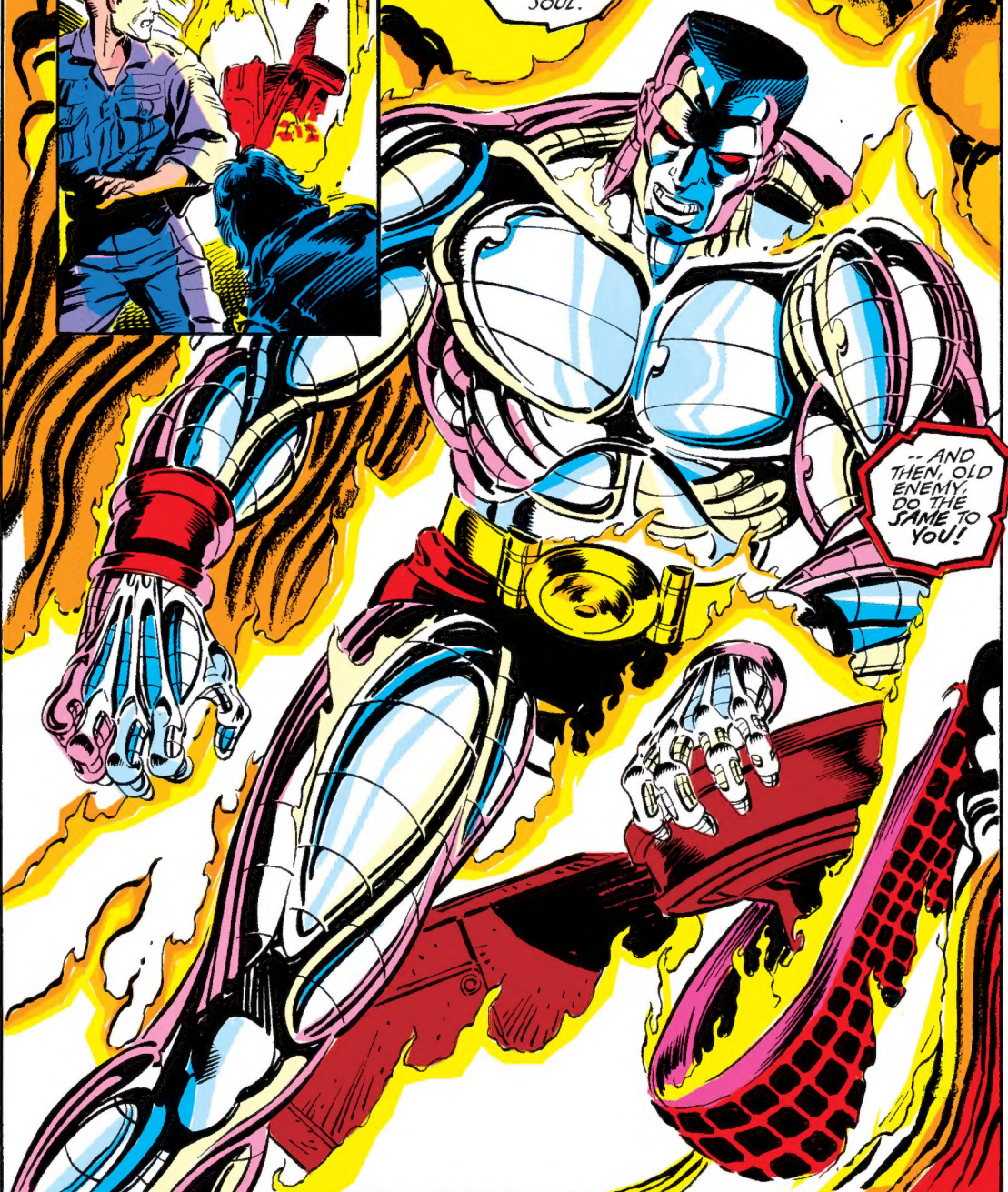
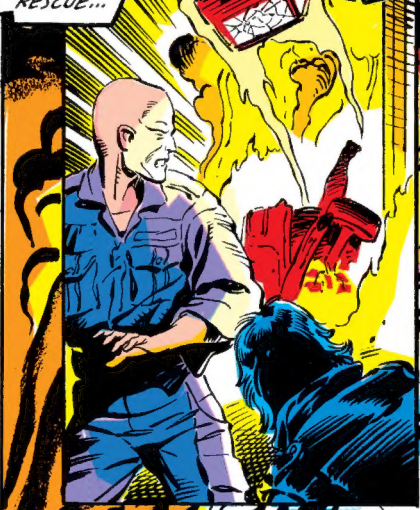
I TRUST,  
XAVIER, YOU  
REMEMBER  
*Colours*.

YOUR  
X-MAN IS  
MINE NOW.  
BODY AND  
SOUL.

HIS ORDERS  
ARE TO REND  
MS. HUNTER BEFORE  
YOUR EYES LIMB  
FROM LOVELY  
LIMB--

--I DID  
WARN YOU,  
MY DEAR, OF  
THE TERRIBLE  
PRICE OF  
DEFIANCE--

-- AND  
THEN, OLD  
ENEMY,  
DO THE  
SAME TO  
YOU!



NEXT: **BAD to the BONE!**



# X-MAIL

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP  
387 Park Avenue South—New York, New York—10016  
Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

## NOTES AND X-PLANATIONS!

As things heat up in the X-office, preparing for X-FORCE #1 and X-MEN #1—the two titanic hits of the summer—we thought we'd drop you all a line so you can keep things straight over the upcoming momentous months. (Not that we need the help. Naaah!)

First off, this issue marks the beginning of the Muir Island Saga, which culminates the Shadow King sub-plot. This issue X-pal Paul Smith pinched in. Thanks, Paul!

For the next two issues, talented Andy Kubert takes the reins—aided and abetted by the multi-faceted X-inker, Scott Williams! (Wait 'til you get a load of this stuff, kids!)

For the record, the Muir Island Saga will run in UNCANNY X-MEN #278, and #279, with an excursion to X-FACTOR #69 and then return to X-MEN #280, with X-FACTOR #70 serving as an epilogue to things-that-have-been.

The next month, X-MEN #1 debuts by Chris Claremont, Jim Lee and Scott Williams—also on sale that month: UNCANNY X-MEN #281 with Chris and new team supreme WHILCE PORTACIO and ART THIBERT, the art team that's been knockin' 'em dead for the past few months in X-FACTOR.

Speaking of which, the 71st issue of that title not only features a new team of heroes, but a new creative team in the form of PETER DAVID and LARRY STROMAN! We think the off-beat tales these two gentlemen are going to tell will blow you away!

By then X-FORCE should be sizzling into its third titanic issue and WOLVERINE will be approaching his 50th anniversary issue (where we have plenty of surprises coming!)

Whoa! We're outta breath!

Jim Lee took these issues off to journey to New York for a working week of meetings and plotting sessions with Chris, Bob and Suzanne. We think you're gonna love what we have planned!

But it wasn't all work for Jim here in ol' New York. On the final night of his stay, penciler-inker extraordinaire Klaus Janson threw one of comicdom's more successful springfests and Mr. Call-me-a-break-dancin'-fool Lee, as well as the X-editorial team, proved there's no match for them when it comes to being party animals!

On to one final note: we have to congratulate X-assistant editor and partying SUZANNE GAFFNEY for winning a trip to Boston in the finals in a local nightclub's singing contest.

Not only can this lady edit, not only does she cut a mean rug, (as does Jim Lee)—but, boy, can she sing! Congrats, Suzanne.

Dear X-People,

ABSOLUTELY SPECTACULAR!

X-MEN #275 was the best! Nothing less than what I would expect from Chris Claremont and Jim Lee, the team supreme. I am less than happy, though, about Chris's departure from EXCALIBUR to help out with X-FACTOR, but hey, I read that book, too! It's just too bad Chris couldn't handle all three books at one time... or could he? (Hint-hint!)

A belated 'welcome aboard' to Mr. Lee—his work's fantastic, though I still miss Marc Silvestri's one-of-a-kind pencils. Since we're on the topic of art, I just want to mention that it was a nice touch, switching back to the original uniforms. One complaint, though—it's an absolute waste to hide Psylocke's legs under the yellow-blue costume; give her back her "swimsuit," please. Oh, and her butterfly insignia, too—I haven't seen much of it since Mr. Lee took over.

To end off, congrats on winning the Eagle Award. You guys deserved it!

Roy Neo

(Address withheld by request!)

Thanks, Roy. By the way, if you miss Marc Silvestri's pencils, just check out his work on WOLVERINE, on sale biweekly this spring!

Dear X-Staff,

Currently all three of the X-Books have all-star creative teams. Claremont and Lee in X-MEN; Portacio, Claremont, and Lee in X-FACTOR; and Nicieza and Liefeld in X-FORCE. The present is in good hands; what concerns me is the future direction of Xavier's tribes.

Over the past few weeks I have heard rumors that the X-MEN and X-FACTOR are due for another shake up. From what I have heard some members will change groups. Some of this is already happening. In the recent X-FACTOR, the Beast refers to himself as an X-Man. It is hard to foretell how the alignments will change, but is it not a little too soon after the X-Tinction Agenda? Or will the changes be caused by further ripple effects?

Whatever happens, I will be there. I have been with the X-Men family since X-MEN #106. I believe that when mid-summer comes around, the three X-Books will be the top three sellers. Keep the books interesting and intriguing, but not so tangled that no one can figure out what is going on.

Raul S. Sanchez  
9810 Carmenita Rd.  
Whittier, CA 90605

Raul, we hope our little note up top avoids any confusion. Lord knows we try!

Dear Chris and Jim,

I love what you're doing to the characters and storylines. Let me first comment on the artwork. Outrageous, absolutely, positively,

the greatest art I've ever seen. Even if the story wasn't good, the art could still carry the book. It moves so smoothly that it's enjoyable to just stare at. Keep Jim Lee around forever, or at least a few years. Now for the stories.

Chris, you are truly at your best and it shows. The way you brought back Rogue was excellent, but why can she remember things that the others couldn't? I have a few more questions about some tangling storylines. 1) What happened to Amanda? And what about the Reavers? 2) Why is Moira acting so strangely? And who is that person with the high hairdo? 3) Will Dazzler return to the team? I hope so. She was beginning to become a likeable person.

Tell us some more about the new X-Men book, who's in it, who is going to draw it, and so on. Keep up the good work, and until Daz and Rogue become a singing duo, Make Mine Marvel!

Robert Jacobs  
416 S. Kensington  
Kansas City, MO 64124

1) She's possessed by the Shadow King on Muir Island. The Reavers are currently bouncing around in WOLVERINE (on sale biweekly for the summer! This time we said it with feeling!). 2) The Shadow King's got her! High-hairdo man is Legion. 3) And, no, Robert, Dazz seems to be gone for good.

Dear X-MEN writers,

Issue #275 was great! I bought two copies, and took off the cover of one to hang up as a poster. I love Wolvie, Jubilee, Psylocke, and Storm. They're all great. But not Banshee, Forge, or Gambit. Maybe Professor X could kill them, but before he starts on the others, Rogue should save the day. Then they get Colossus and Havok back, and it will be like the old days. Or, you could make another X-Men team and stick Banshee, Forge, and Gambit on that one. It could have Moira McTaggart, Polaris, and the other three. Then they would search for Colossus.

The X-Men have no one with super-strength, so get Colossus back, or at least Rogue. I read somewhere that she's going to Muir Island.

I've been a fan of the X-MEN for a really long time, and I've turned all of my friends into X-MEN fans. Now, some of them have more issues than me!

Please bring back Colossus. I can live without Havok, but not without Colossus! If Colossus isn't there, who will do that fastball special thing with Wolverine? Who will sketch the X-Men?

I've heard something about a whole new X-Factor team! Is it true? That would be neat! And maybe X-Factor will join the X-Men in a whole new X-Men book! That would be neat! Tell me, please, tell me everything you know about this! Well, until I die, Make Mine Marvel!

William H. Bonney  
(Address withheld by request)

Colossus is back! So he and Wolverine (whose book, in case we forgot to mention, is on sale biweekly this spring) can soon be doin' the ol' fastball special just like the good ol' days.

MEET  
15  
MORE



Boyd Jordan, 15  
Vieta, CA

Lisa Bald, 19  
San Diego, CA

Sung An, 14  
San Diego, CA

Cris Bonilla, 20  
Anaheim, CA

Tim Blackford, 19  
San Diego, CA

Eugene Pyu, 15  
Carlsbad, CA

Ken Smith, 20  
San Diego, CA

Pat Trienta, 15  
San Diego, CA

Mark Kim, 14  
San Diego, CA

Brad Endicott, 20  
San Diego, CA

Tom Malherich, 15  
San Diego, CA

Bryan Williams, 23  
Escondido, CA

Robert McGren, 20  
San Diego, CA

Ray Weber, 31  
McKeesrock, CA

Corina Vandas, 20  
El Cajon, CA





# MINUTEMEN

# Bluntman